

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 FEA-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 SCI-06 INT-08 EA-11 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01

EB-11 AF-10 /201 W

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R 281631Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2294

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IS, SY, GR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS

1. AT RECEPTION JANUARY 26 SOVIET AMBASSADOR IGOR EJOV TOLD ME HE WAS PLEASED WITH COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS. HE WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY FACT ARABS AND ISRAELIS AT LAST TALKING TO EACH OTHER FACE TO FACE. HE REITERATED EMPHATICALLY SEVERAL TIMES SOVIETS REALLY WANTED A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST. HE UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM TO ENSURE CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATION PROCESS. SOVIET AMBASSADOR FORESAW REAL DIFFICULTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE PALESTINE ISSUE. (PRESUMABLY HE MEANT WHOLE COMPLEX, I.E. JERUSALEM, PALESTINIANS, WEST BANK.)

2. IN REPLY TO MY INQUIRY WHETHER USSR CONSIDERING CONTRIBUTING FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE TO REOPENING SUEZ CANAL, HE REPLIED
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THIS WAS TO BE BY NO MEANS EXCLUDED. REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL

WOULD BE IMPORTANT NOT ONLY FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES BUT ALSO FOR THOSE ON THE BLACK SEA. HE WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER OTHER ARAB STATES' FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EGYPT WOULD BE AFFECTED BY PROSPECTIVE RENEWAL OF FLOW OF SUEZ CANAL REVENUES.

3. WHEN I EXPRESSED THE HOPE AN AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT ON GOLAN HEIGHTS COULD BE REACHED AND ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS, HE STRUCK A NOTE OF SOME DOUBT. HE CONSIDERED THAT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT HAD RENDERED SYRIA'S POSITION DELICATE. HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS BUT PROUDLY NOTED OTHERS WERE INVOLVED AS WELL.

4. DURING LATTER PART OF OUR CONVERSATION, IN THE PRESENCE OF A GREEK FRIEND, SOVIET AMBASSADOR NOTED INTEREST SIBERIAN GAS AND OIL MIGHT HAVE FOR THE U.S. AND JAPAN. IN REPLY I VENTURED BY PERSONAL OPINION THAT IF ARABS KEPT THE PRICE OF OIL TOO HIGH AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY COULD MAKE THE U.S. WITHIN 5 TO 10 YEARS A MAJOR WORLD EXPORTER OF ENERGY BASED UPON OUR EXTRAORDINARY DEPOSITS OF HIGH GRADE COAL AND VAST DEPOSITS OF SHALE OIL-BEARING ROCK.

5. INCIDENTALLY EMBASSY HAS REPORT THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR IS RELATED TO DOBRYNIN THROUGH MARRIAGE OF THEIR CHILDREN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS, INTERNATIONAL CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS00574
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740113/aaaaalkc.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IS, SY, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005